

# Orange Public Elementary Schools

P.O. Box 680, 507 South Main Street • Orange, Massachusetts 01364

Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski  
Superintendent of Schools  
Tel: (978) 544-6763  
Fax: (978) 544-3450

November 19, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) defines standards for teacher quality. Under ESEA, teachers must be licensed, have a bachelor's degree, and demonstrate subject matter knowledge, either through a state test or by majoring in the subject in college. ESEA standards apply to the subject matter taught by teachers: a teacher may be qualified to teach one subject but not another. With this in mind, we are doubling our efforts to make sure all teachers at our school are appropriately assigned to teach classes that reflect their degrees.

ESEA requires that parents/guardians of children enrolled in classes that do not have a MA area licensed teacher, including in Title I schools, be notified if their child has been taught for four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the federal standard. As of this writing, your child's teacher, Ms. Chelsea Drake, was reported as not highly qualified during the fall State reporting; however, since that time Ms. Drake has been actively working on the necessary requirements for licensure by the State and is expected to be considered highly qualified by the State of Massachusetts by the end of this school year.

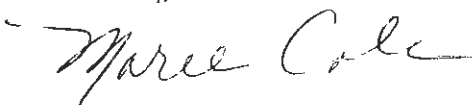
Ms. Drake is employed as a school nurse and is providing medical care for your child's school for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Drake is currently licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN) by the state of Massachusetts. She is in the process of obtaining her educational license as a school nurse. She is currently licensed to provide medical care and distribute medications by the State of Massachusetts for hospitals, nursing centers, and other community agencies requiring a licensed RN. She is in the process of completing the requirements by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for licensure as a school nurse; Massachusetts is one of the few states in the country that requires this measure.

ESEA also requires that school districts annually notify the parents/guardians of each student attending any Title I school that they may request information about the qualifications of their child's teacher and teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver through which the State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of your child's teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field or discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, give their qualifications.

If you have any questions regarding Ms. Drake's qualifications, please feel free to contact us at (978) 544-2542.

Sincerely,



Marie A. Cole  
Curriculum Director/Title I